REMARKS

Claims 4-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been canceled, and new claims 4-17 have been added to allow prosecution of non-elected and withdrawn claims 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 of the parent application which disclose, for example (e.g., claim 4), a gap which is not filled with semiconductor as disclosed in Takeuchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,188). No new matter has been added.

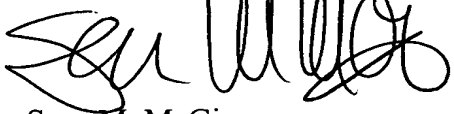
With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 10/391,648, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application No. 9-322132, filed on November 7, 1997, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to Toyoda Gosei Co., Ltd., at Reel 010240, and Frame 0500.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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